



Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

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Man Sentenced for DUI Crash That Killed Friend

A Van Nuys man was sentenced today to six years in state prison for a DUI crash that killed his friend, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Edward Lamont Powe, 25, pleaded no contest on May 6 to one count of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated.

On Dec. 30, 2013, Powe was driving a car at more than 90 mph with his friend, 19-year-old Jennifer Benga. He lost control and crashed against a light pole, passenger side first, shearing the pole off at its base near Roscoe Boulevard and Hayvenhurst Avenue, prosecutors said.

Benga died at the scene. After the crash, Powe was found trapped in the car, smelling of alcohol with three beer cans in his pockets, the prosecutor added.

The prosecutor assigned to the case was Deputy District Attorney Adan Montalban.

The investigation was handled by the Los Angeles Police Department, Valley Traffic Division.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.